

REMARKS

The Official Action mailed December 19, 2007, has been received and its contents carefully noted. This response is filed within three months of the mailing date of the Official Action and therefore is believed to be timely without extension of time. Accordingly, the Applicant respectfully submits that this response is being timely filed.

The Applicant notes with appreciation the consideration of the Information Disclosure Statements filed on September 24, 2003; November 4, 2004; August 12, 2005; November 1, 2005; June 28, 2006; and August 22, 2006.

Claims 1-4 and 6-35 are pending in the present application, of which claims 1, 6-9, 11, 14, 17 and 22-25 are independent. The Applicant notes with appreciation the allowance of claims 1-4, 6, 8, 10-32 and 34 (Box 5, Office Action Summary, and page 4, Paper No. 20061213). Independent claims 7 and 9 have been amended to better recite the features of the present invention. For the reasons set forth in detail below, all claims are believed to be in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration is requested.

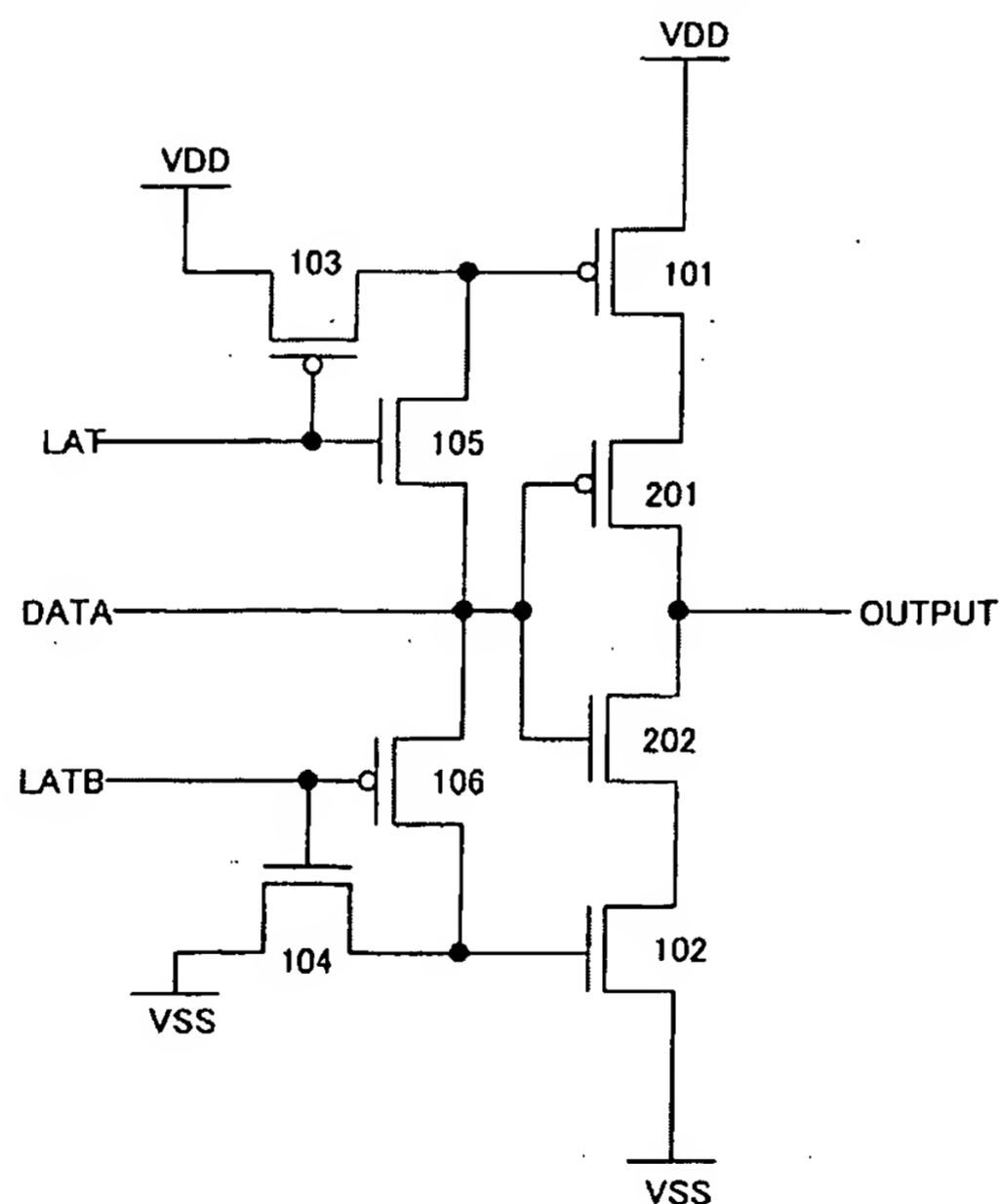
Paragraph 3 of the Official Action rejects claims 7, 9, 33 and 35 as anticipated by U.S. Patent Publication No. 2003/0210219 to Osame. The Applicant respectfully submits that an anticipation rejection cannot be maintained against the independent claims of the present application, as amended.

As stated in MPEP § 2131, to establish an anticipation rejection, each and every element as set forth in the claim must be described either expressly or inherently in a single prior art reference. Verdegaal Bros. v. Union Oil Co. of California, 814 F.2d 628, 631, 2 USPQ2d 1051, 1053 (Fed. Cir. 1987).

Independent claim 7 has been amended to recite first to third transistors connected in series (see, e.g., 151, 152 and 153 of Figure 7B), a fourth transistor and a fifth transistor connected in series (see, e.g., 157, 156 of Figure 7B), and a sixth transistor and a seventh transistor connected in series (see, e.g., 158, 159 of Figure 7B), where drains of the sixth transistor and the seventh transistor are each connected to a gate of the third transistor (see, e.g., 153, 158 and 159 of Figure 7B). Also, claim 9

has been amended to recite first to third transistors connected in series (see, e.g., 91, 92 and 93 of Figure 6B), a fourth transistor and a fifth transistor connected in series (see, e.g., 97 and 96 of Figure 6B), and a sixth transistor and a seventh transistor connected in series (see, e.g., 98 and 99 and Figure 6B), where drains of the sixth transistor and the seventh transistor are each connected to a gate of the third transistor (see, e.g., 98, 99 and 93 of Figure 6B). For the reasons provided below, the Applicant respectfully submits that Osame does not teach the above-referenced features of the present invention, either explicitly or inherently.

The Official Action asserts that TFTs 101, 201, 202, 105 or 106 and 103 or 104 correspond with the first to fifth transistors, respectively, of the present claims (pages 2-3, Paper No. 20061213). One might argue that Osame discloses seven transistors, e.g., TFTs 101, 201, 202, 105, 103, 106 and 104 (Figure 4, reproduced below).



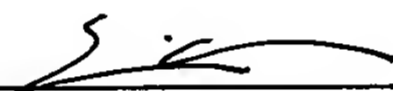
However, a gate of the third transistor 202 is connected to a gate of the second transistor 201, and sources of the fourth transistor 105 and the sixth transistor 106. Osame does not teach, in addition to the other features of the claims, that drains of a

sixth transistor and a seventh transistor are each connected to a gate of a third transistor, either explicitly or inherently.

Since Osame does not teach all the elements of the independent claims, either explicitly or inherently, an anticipation rejection cannot be maintained. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102 are in order and respectfully requested.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable to place this application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,


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